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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/694,048

10/28/2003

Kazuma Sugahara

2003-1539

3870

513

7590

05/17/2006

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.
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EXAMINER

BEAUCHAINE, MARK J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3653

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/694,048		SUGAHARA ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Mark J. Beauchaine		3653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 8-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/28/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 28 October 2003 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. Items AK and AL of the Foreign Patent Documents section of the PTO-1449 form have not been found either in the instant case of the parent Application Number 10/070,147. Accordingly, said items have not been considered.

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 1 and 7, it is unclear what claim element the term "get over" (line 18 both claims) is in reference to.

Regarding claim 3, the term "always downwardly pressing" is ambiguous.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Number 5,011,457 by Takatani et al (hereinafter "Takatani") in view of Patent Number 5,389,034 by Rumbach (hereinafter "Rumbach"). The coin stacking apparatus disclosed by Takatani incorporates conveying belt 21, ratchet 24 and abutment 60 (see Figure 15A) that read on the Applicant's conveying mechanism, feeding member and stopping member, respectively. Although the abutment 60 of Takatani is stationary in lieu of being adjustable the use of an adjustable coin stop in coin stacking mechanisms is well known in the art. Rumbach teaches a coin stacking apparatus incorporating a stop rail 108 that is "adjustable in accordance with the coin diameter being stacked"

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(column 4, lines 26-29) and reads on the Applicant's stopping member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the adjustable stop rail of Rumbach into the stacking apparatus of Takatani to provide an effective means of adapting the apparatus to various coin denominations.

Regarding claim 3, the stabilizing roller 53 reads on the Applicant's presser member.

Regarding claim 5, the toothed stacking wheel 24 of Takatani "represents but one of many like means for stacking a unit number of coins" (column 24, lines 35-28). Takatani further discloses endless belt 72 that rotates about two pulleys (see Figure 24) and reads on the Applicant's cylindrical rotating friction surface.

Regarding claim 6, the ratchet 24 of Takatani incorporates sides 24A and 24B that read on the Applicant's push and lifting surfaces, respectively.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatani in view of Rumbach as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,951,448 by Schmechel (hereinafter "Schmechel"). Although Takatani fails to disclose an adjustable feeding member the use of such a feature is well known in the art. Schmechel teaches a coin stacker that incorporates bearing 62 that feeds coins to stack 14 and is repositioned relative to feeding track 9 (see Figures 8 and 10). Said bearing reads on the Applicant's adjustable feeding member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the

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bearing of Schmechel into the apparatus of Takatani to provide an effective means of redirecting coins being processed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, of claim 7 set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

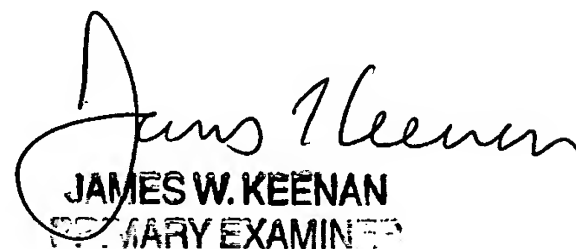
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571)272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mjb


JAMES W. KEENAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER